Statement

Yearwise status of applications received and pan allotted

	No. of applications received during the year	No, of PAN allotted during the year
1995-96	992,447	519,130
1996-97	830,062	671,652
1997-98	885,076	742,666
1998-99	14,623,988	9,541,669
1999-2000	1,566,573	5,066,981
2000-2001 (upto 31.10.2000)	1,152,646	1,414,530
Total	20,050,796	17,956,628

Financial Assistance for **Combating Natural Disaster**

1644. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have responded to West Bengal Government's demand for assistance towards flood relief during the recent floods in September-October;

(b) whether the Central Government have merely confined their exercise to seeing that the State Government gets a loan of Rs. 430 crores from financial institutions and the second instalment of plan assistance is released as advance payment;

(c) whether such arrangements will mean additional expenditure by way of interest burden; and

(d) when and what amount of assistance for combating such a natural disaster will be given by the Central Government to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) In the light of the State's immediate cash flow needs, in the wake of the floods, Ministry of Finance released Rs. 66p.35 crores through a combination of feasible releases. This included advance release of the Centre's contribution of the Calamity Relief Fund of Rs. 37,915 crores. In addition, HUDCO has sanctioned a loan of Rs. 430 crores for immediate rehabilitation of damaged houses and other infrastructure. Ministry

of Rural Development has released in advance the second instalment under the Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY), the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), amounting to Rs. 63.26 crores to the affected districts. Ministry of Surface Transport has also released funds amounting to Rs. 11 crores for immediate repairs of State and National Highways, as per initial assessment.

Mahila Banks

1645. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether exclusive Mahila Banks have come up in the country;

(b) if so, the locations thereof; and

(c) the encouragement to thrift movements given by such banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that there are 127 Mahila Urban Cooperative/Banks existing in the country. The State-wise details are given below:

S.No.	State	No. of Mahila Banks
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11*
2.	Assam, Manipur	1
3.	Gujarat	19
4.	Karnataka	25
5.	Madhya Pradesh	17
6.	Maharashtra	44
7.	Goa	1
8.	Rajasthan	6
9.	Uttar Pradesh	1
10.	West Bengal	2
	Total	127

Excluding 1 unlicensed

(c) RBI has further reported that no study has been conducted by it in this regard.